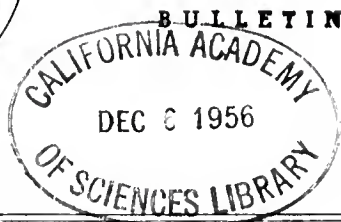


THE
MONTHLY



GULL

BULLETIN



Volume 38

Berkeley, California, December, 1956

Number 12

OCTOBER TRIP TO GOLDEN GATE PARK AND SAN FRANCISCO SHORE

On October 20 about fifty people, including a large delegation from the Notre Dame High School of San Jose, gathered at 43rd and Fulton Streets, San Francisco, for a trip to Golden Gate Park. First, however, a visit was made to the Cliff House to see the birds on and around Seal Rocks. Here, among other birds, Surf-birds, Black Turnstones, a Wandering Tattler, and Heermann's Gulls were seen. Then the Chain-of-Lakes in the park was toured; and a European Widgeon was found on the North Lake and excellent views and comparisons with an American Widgeon were had. Also at this lake a Marsh Wren was heard close by, although no view of it was obtained. After eating lunch near the polo field, many went to the planetarium for the afternoon show, while a few birders walked through the arboretum. Altogether the following 48 species were identified: Western Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Mallard, European Widgeon, Am. Widgeon, Shoveller, Ruddy Duck, Red-tailed Hawk, California Quail, Am. Coot, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Heermann's Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Com. Bush-tit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Marsh Wren, Am. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow Warbler [a late date for this species — Ed.], Audubon's Warbler, Yellow-throat, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.

— ARTHUR J. BENNETT, *Leader and Historian.*

OCTOBER TRIP TO U.C. AND STRAWBERRY CANYON

It was a warm day on October 28 and about 28 members and friends turned out for the field trip to the University of California campus and Strawberry Canyon. From the meeting place at the West Gate we walked along

the north side of the campus, where the highlight was a flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings feeding on red berries. We then went on through the campus and along Faculty Glade back to the West Gate, then drove to Strawberry Canyon where we had lunch at the Botanic Garden. The Anna's Hummingbirds were everywhere here. A flock of Pine Siskins was seen feeding on the small cones in a cypress grove, and three Red-tailed Hawks were seen flying together and calling. Charles Hines also saw a Golden Eagle. The following 28 species of birds were identified: Red-tailed Hawk 4, Golden Eagle 1, California Quail 5, Mourning Dove 2, Red-shafted Flicker 5, (Red-breasted) Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Steller's Jay 5, Scrub Jay 12, Chestnut-backed Chickadee 15, Plain Titmouse 4, Com. Bush-tit 12, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, California Thrasher, Am. Robin 15, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 6, Cedar Waxwing 50, Hutton's Vireo, Audubon's Warbler, House Sparrow, House Finch 5, Pine Siskin 7, Brown Towhee 10, Oregon Junco 3, White-crowned Sparrow 7, Golden-crowned Sparrow 3, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow 2.

— PHIL SMITH, *Leader and Historian*.

NOVEMBER TRIP TO TOMALES POINT, POINT REYES, AND TOMALES BAY

On Sunday, November 11, some 70 dauntless birders reached Tomales Point in time for lunch after a hike from the outer McClure Ranch during which they were almost led over a cliff by Lee Stallcup, who got lost in the fog. The point was shrouded during the hour or two spent there, with visibility varying from a few hundred feet to possibly 350 yards. In spite of the adverse conditions a good number of species were noted by various small groups who scouted around the peninsula on the return trip. Other areas covered included Olema marsh, Inverness, and Tomales Bay between there and Point Reyes Station. The following 108 species were noted: Common, Arctic, and Red-throated Loons; Red-necked, Horned, Eared, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes; Sooty Shearwater, Brown Pelican; Double-crested, Brandt's, and Pelagic Cormorants; Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Snowy Egret, Am. Bittern, Black Brant, Mallard, Pintail, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Buffle-head, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture; Sharp-shinned, Red-tailed, Marsh, and Sparrow Hawks; Calif. Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Am. Coot, Black Oyster-catcher, Killdeer, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellow-legs; Least, Red-backed, and Western Sandpipers; Glaucous-winged, Western, Herring, California, Ring-billed, Bonaparte's, and Heermann's Gulls; Pigeon Guillemot, Ancient Murrelet (several small flocks flying past the point), Rhinoceros Auklet (1, on water), Band-tailed Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Horned Lark, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Com. Raven, Am. Crow, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Plain Titmouse, Com. Bush-tit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Wren-tit; Winter, Bewick's, and Marsh Wrens; Mockingbird, Am. Robin, Varied Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird; Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets; Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Com. Starling; Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers; Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch,

other behavior; "Thirty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list of North American Birds," *Auk*, 73:447-449 (July, 1956) — in which the chief changes of interest to California amateurs are the re-establishment of the Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*) as a species separate from the Ringed Plover (*C. hiaticula*) of the Old World, and the addition of the Black-tailed Gull (*Larus crassirostris*) to the list upon the basis of a specimen collected at San Diego (vagrant from Japan area).

FIELD TRIPS FOR DECEMBER

On Sunday, December 9, to CONN LAKE in Napa County — a refuge with a wonderful abundance of waterfowl as well as small colorful birds of the Digger Pine and chaparral belt. Sixty or 70 species are quite possible. Meet at the bridge on the Silverado Trail about a mile north of Napa at 9:15 a.m. Bring telescopes, binoculars, lunch, and friends. Leader, Peter Veitch,

• NOTE THAT THIS TRIP COMES BEFORE THE MONTHLY MEETING •

On Saturday, December 15, to LAKE MERRITT and LAKESIDE PARK in Oakland. Far away places always seem more interesting and enchanting than those available and close at hand, so we are sometimes guilty of overlooking or ignoring the treasures at our doorstep. Nationally known wildlife refuges are not generally found in the heart of a large city, but Oakland can boast of this unique situation. Paul Covell, Oakland's park naturalist, will be the leader of this last field trip of 1956 (though of course there are the Christmas Counts). Plan to be on hand to observe our far-flying waterfowl at close range. Meet at the Rotary Natural Science Center near the feeding area at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, telescopes, cameras, lunch and interested friends.

— LEE STALLCUP, LO 9-3185, *Field Trips Chairman*.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

All members and friends of the Golden Gate Audubon Society are invited to share the thrill of taking part in the San Francisco Bird Count on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1956, beginning at 8 a.m.

The groups and assigned areas, with their leaders, are as follows: Group 1, Palace of Fine Arts, Arthur J. Bennett, leader; Group 2, McLaren Park, Excelsior and Mission Sts., Dr. A. Laurence Curl; Group 3, Land's End, Harold G. Peterson; Group 4, Golden Gate Park, 30th Ave., Dr. Albert Boles; Group 5, Golden Gate Park, 10th Ave., Joel Hedgpeth; Group 6, Golden Gate Park, 10th Ave., Frank Zografos; Group 7, Lake Merced, Fleishhacker Entrance, Loris P. Smith; Group 8, Stern Grove, Carl L. Carson; Group 9, Seal Rocks and Pacific Ocean Beach, Chas. Hines, Jr.; Group 10, Presidio at Lombard Gate, Leslie W. Bartow; Group 11, San Francisco Bay, foot of Van Ness Ave., Peter Veitch; Group 12, Treasure and Goat Island, L. Richard Leinbach; Group 13, Mole Hole, Civic Center, Robert R. Chase; Group 14, Marin shore-line, Mrs. H. B. Lennon.

The official count period is December 22 through January 1. Species not seen on count day but seen within the same area during the official count period may be listed separately. There is a 50c fee for official participants, charged by Audubon Field Notes magazine which publishes the counts from all over the nation in its April issue. The Golden Gate Society will pay this fee for those who participate and contribute a count made by themselves or by a group which they led.

— ARTHUR H. MYER, *Compiler*, TH 5-3080.

House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, (Spotted) Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Towhee, Oregon Junco; White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Song Sparrows.

— MRS. GRACE MILLER, *Leader*, and
LEE STALLCUP, *Co-leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the Golden Gate Audubon Society: from Alameda, Mrs. Elsie B. Roemer; from Angwin, Mr. Alex Greesman; from Berkeley, Miss Rofena Lewis; from Boyes Hot Springs, Dr. Harold Rakoczy; from Oakland, Mrs. George H. Bulger and Mr. Thomas W. Cook; from Richmond, Miss Josephine Wiley; from San Francisco, Dr. Robert C. Miller, Miss Rebecca Cerf, Miss Louise Tucker, Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Stone, Miss Norma Ockree, and Miss Shirley Lehnhardt; from San Leandro, Mr. Charles E. Frazer. The membership count is now 892.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*.

OBSERVATIONS

SAY'S PHOEBE and HOUSE WREN, Sep. 19 at 751 Balra Dr., El Cerrito, the first recorded there (A. L. Curl); LINCOLN'S SPARROW on Sep. 20 at that same location (A. L. C.) and one near Muir Woods on Oct. 1 (C. D. Fisher); A really great rarity, a LAPLAND LONGSPUR in winter plumage, was "observed in good light through a 20x telescope at about 25 feet" on Point Reyes, Sep. 16 (Alan Craig, C. D. Fisher); an OSPREY on the same date, a female (AM.) BLACK SCOTER on Sep. 15, and a *count* of 190 VARIED THRUSHES on Nov. 3 were also among the highlights of observations on frequent trips to Point Reyes reported by Fisher; SPOTTED OWL, 2 apparently young birds in Muir Woods, Sep. 3, observed as close as 25 feet, and one heard at 7 miles S. of Olema on Oct. 5 (CDF, AC); SAW-WHET OWL, 1 heard at the same location S. of Olema on Oct. 1 (CDF) and 2 there on Oct. 5 (CDF, AC); PYGMY OWL, 1 heard at dusk in Taylor State Park, Marin Co., on Oct. 12 and Nov. 2 (CDF, AC); WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, 1 in yard since Oct. 18 at Lafayette (Harry Adamson), and 2 banded at Berkeley on Nov. 11 (John Ralph, and identified also by W. M. Pursell).

Some observations by C. D. Fisher during the week of Sep. 24-30 while on an aircraft carrier in the area between Point Reyes and Point Sur at 20 to 50 miles offshore include the following highlights: Black-footed Albatross, uncommon; Gray-backed Shearwater, 6 on the 24th between the S. F. Lightship and 35 miles west of Santa Cruz; Ashy Petrel, 6 in the same area as the last species and 6 on the 30th at 15 to 30 miles W. and NW. of the Farallons; Fork-tailed Petrel, 1 on 30th at 15 miles NW. of the Farallons; SKUA, 8 identified on 30th between 5 miles NW. and 2 miles S. of the Farallons (and compared in size and plumage with the numerous Pomarine Jaegers present); Sabine's Gull, common all along the cruise with maximum flock of 19 on the 29th.

EDITOR'S CORNER

RECENT SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE OF INTEREST TO THE AMATEUR ORNITHOLOGIST: Johnston, Richard F., "Predation by Short-eared Owls on a Salicornia Salt Marsh," *Wilson Bulletin*, 68:91-102 (June, 1956) — at San Pablo, Calif.; Nero, Robert W., "A Behavior Study of the Red-winged Blackbird. II. Territoriality," *Wilson Bul.*, 68:129-150. — near Madison, Wisc.; Dilger, Wm. C., "Hostile Behavior and Reproductive Isolating Mechanisms in the Avian Genera *Catharus* and *Hylocichla*," *Auk*, 73:313-353 (July, 1956) — in which the Veery and the Hermit, Gray-cheeked, Olive-backed, and Wood Thrushes are analyzed with respect to displays (copiously illustrated) and courtship, all except the last being placed in a separate genus, *Catharus*; Dilger, Wm. C., "Adaptive Modifications and Ecological Isolating Mechanisms in the Thrush Genera *Catharus* and *Hylocichla*," *Wilson Bul.*, 68:171-199 (Sep., 1956); Monroe, Burt L., Jr., "Observations of Elegant Terns at San Diego, California," *Wilson Bul.*, 68:239-244 (Sep., 1956) — with notes on recently expanded frequency of occurrence, on plumages and voice and

OAKLAND CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The annual East-Bay Christmas Bird Count will be taken on Sunday, December 30, in the various parts of a 15-mile diameter circle extending from S. of Oakland Airport north to Pt. Isabel in S.E. Richmond and inland to San Pablo Reservoir, Lafayette, Saint Mary's College, San Leandro Reservoir and Golf Links Road. This is an exciting all-day adventure starting as early as 4:30 a.m. (for those who wish) and officially ending anytime up to midnight, although most observers quit at dark. All who wish to participate will be most welcome. Last year some of the rarest species were reported by busy housewives who were unable to go afield, but devoted what time they could to keeping a close lookout for birds at their feeding stations or in their gardens. Anyone who might be able to contribute on a part-time basis in this manner, please phone the compiler at LO 9-3185.

Those who will be able to spend the whole day, or most of it, in an assigned area of the circle, either with or under the guidance of a leader, should call one of the group leaders listed below:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Harry Adamson, 995 Carol Lane, Lafayette | AT 3-2164 |
| Dr. Albert Boles, 845 Longridge Rd., Oakland..... | GL 1-6267 |
| Mrs. Myra Browne, 2435 Ivy Dr., Oakland..... | TW 3-5469 |
| Howard Cogswell, Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland..... | NE 6-1573 |
| Paul Covell, 2860 Delaware St., Oakland..... | KE 6-4120 |
| Alan Craig, 2140 Oxford St., Berkeley..... | AS 3-9700 |
| Dr. A. L. Curl, 751 Balra Dr., El Cerrito..... | LA 6-7004 |
| Charles Hines, Jr., 810 Taraval St., San Francisco..... | OV 1-0935 |
| Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, 1311 Grand St., Alameda..... | LA 2-7084 |
| L. R. Leinbach, 201 Purdue Ave., Berkeley..... | LA 6-7649 |
| Arthur Myer, 25 El Camino Real, Berkeley..... | TH 5-3080 |
| Harold Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland..... | LO 8-7534 |
| Frank Scott, 1508 La Loma Ave., Berkeley..... | AS 3-1253 |
| Herb Wong, 135 - 8th St., Oakland..... | TE 2-4243 |

There is a 50c fee for participants who observe and count birds separately from a group and for group leaders, this being charged by Audubon Field Notes magazine, in the April issue of which the counts from all over the nation are published. The Golden Gate Society will pay this fee for all who thus contribute a part of the count. This year we have more and better birders, with more and better optical instruments. **HOW CAN WE LOSE?**

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Covell have graciously offered to serve as host and hostess for the traditional evening get-together, starting at 6:00 p.m. at their home, 2860 Delaware St., Oakland. All counters who plan to attend this evening meeting should notify their group leader *not later than December 26*. He will in turn let the hostess know exactly how many from his group will be there. **THIS IS IMPORTANT** as this affair, with buffet supper for tired birders, is no simple one to arrange. Anyone wishing to help in food preparation, or who might be able to serve in any other way, should phone Mrs. Covell at KE 6-4120.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Compiler*, LO 9-3185.

DECEMBER MEETING

The 471st regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, in the Assembly Room (3rd floor) of the Main Library in San Francisco (Larkin and McAllister Sts., no. 5 bus). It will be our privilege to preview the Audubon Screen Tour, "Ranch and Range," which Mr. Al Wool will present to Audubon audiences this season. Mr. Wool is a rancher in the Santa Clara Valley who has spent six years compiling the material for this unusual film. Something "new under the sun" is a rancher who keeps his camera, not his gun, loaded at all times to shoot the unexpected.

In addition, Mr. Howard L. Cogswell, our official delegate to the National Audubon Society's 52nd annual convention will report to us on his experience.

Guests are welcome.

—LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman.*

OUR FORTIETH BIRTHDAY

We have reached middle age. Now, if ever, we are in our prime. An era of great accomplishment in our dedicated purpose lies ahead of us, and a past of which we are justly proud is behind us. In January 1957 our Golden Gate Audubon Society will be forty years old, having been formed in 1917 as the Audubon Association of the Pacific. Plans are under way for a celebration of this most important occasion, at which it will be our privilege to honor the charter members of our Society and to renew old friendships among all our members.

There will be a banquet at the Hotel Claremont, Berkeley, on Thursday, January 10, at 7:30 p.m., preceded by the Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. and a social hour. The Anniversary Committee hopes to have a nationally known naturalist and writer as guest speaker, whose name will be announced in the January Gull. As an added attraction, the talented Audubon Players will present for the first time on any stage a one-act playlet, "Beating the Birds to the Bush."

EVERYBODY COME! Fill in your reservation card at once. You may make up a table for a group, or reserve a place individually. The Committee will do the rest. This will be the party of parties to usher us into the forties!

—FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
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| Vice President..... | Dr. T. Eric Reynolds..... | 140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN 1-7121 |
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| Recording Secretary..... | Mrs. Roberta J. Long..... | 45 Clarendon Avenue, San Francisco 14, LO 4-7767 |
| Corresponding Secretary..... | Mrs. Hermine H. VanGelder..... | 2409 Bowditch Street, Berkeley 4, AS 3-9740 |
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| Director..... | Dr. Albert Boles..... | 854 Longridge Road, Oakland 10, GL 1-6267 |
| Director and Editor..... | Howard L. Cogswell..... | Box 9486, Mills College, Oakland 13, NE 6-1573 |
| Distribution Chairman..... | Miss Alice Leet..... | 1050 Spruce Street, Berkeley 7, LA 4-2488 |
| Membership Chairman..... | Dr. Jean L. Dunham..... | 4607 Harbord Drive, Oakland 18, OL 5-1591 |

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$ 5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$ 1.00 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way
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